United Nations A/53/L.29

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
12 November 1998
English
Original: French

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen: draft resolution

Special emergency assistance to the Comoros

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,[1]

Recalling its resolution 51/30 F of 13 December 1996 on special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,

Noting the fact that the Comoros has been subjected to external events beyond its control,

Noting also the political, economic and social trauma caused by those events, which are paralysing the economic activities of the Government, including the collection of State revenues from much of the national territory, thereby depriving the State budget of the greater part of its regular budget income,

Noting further that, as a result of those events, a severe economic crisis has led to serious political consequences characterized by separatist tendencies which, since March 1997, have threatened the territorial integrity and economic and social survival of the Comoros,

Recognizing that this situation has resulted in the following: a decline in the country's gross domestic product with adverse economic consequences; the complete impoverishment

[1] A/53/330.

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of the population; the inability of the Government to ensure that the salaries of civil servants are paid regularly; the virtual paralysis owing to a lack of resources, of the reconstruction and development programmes essential to the survival of the country; and a severe recession that has led to the complete collapse of the energy sector and severe electricity and fuel shortages,

Aware of the efforts made by the Government and people of the Comoros to assist the most affected and deprived sectors of the population,

Considering, in particular, that in order to respond to those urgent humanitarian needs the Government of the Comoros, in the absence of other resources, has had to reallocate as a matter of great urgency the major part of the budget required for the functioning of the State and the financial resources normally devoted to vital economic and social programmes,

Noting also that the unfavourable situation of the Comoros, which is on the list of least developed countries, is aggravated by several important factors, including its physical distance from its trading partners, the scarcity of natural resources, the diminutive size of the domestic market, the fall in prices of its export products and the poverty of its soil,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General of 3 September 1998 on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for having, from 25 August to 6 September 1997, expeditiously dispatched the multidisciplinary humanitarian and technical assessment mission to the Comoros, and for the mission's conclusions, which are contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Urges* the international community to respond generously to the needs for urgent assistance identified in annexes I and II to the report of the Secretary-General, and to grant to the Government of the Comoros all necessary assistance to enable it to cope with its budget deficits, including gifts in cash and in kind and debt forgiveness;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and to all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and all the international organizations concerned, including United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, for the assistance they have provided for the relief of the Comoros, and urges them, in consultation with the Government of the Comoros, to help the country to meet its most pressing humanitarian needs and to pursue its efforts to effect economic recovery;

5. *Stresses* that the financial resources available remain nonetheless insufficient vis-à-vis the basic needs to ensure the recovery of the country;

6. *Requests* all Member States and donor bodies, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations, to grant to the Comoros all necessary financial, economic and technical assistance, in order to enable it to achieve national reconstruction and sustainable development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the above-mentioned assistance and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.